

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02  
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH/DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. CULLUMS

NEA/AFN - MS. WEISLOGEL

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

AF/P:MR. DUMAS

AF/C:MR. HAMILTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR  
INFO DOD  
CIA  
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 8

1.  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 8,  
1977:

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE IMPENDING CHANGE OF  
GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL?

A. YES, I DO.

FIRST, I HAVE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
RESIGNATION FROM THE LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP AND THE  
WORKINGS OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESS IN ISRAEL.  
THAT IS FOR THE ISRAELI PEOPLE TO WORK OUT.

ON A MORE GENERAL QUESTION, THE TOTAL PEACE PROCESS AND  
ISRAEL. WE HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT ISRAEL WILL  
CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AND FULLY IN THE SEARCH  
FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO WHICH WE ARE BOTH  
COMMITTED. I WOULD ADD THAT THIS SAME EXPRESSION WAS  
GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR DINITZ IN HIS MEETING WITH SOME OF  
YOU AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. WE DO NOT

EXPECT THIS SEARCH TO BE INTERRUPTED BY THE DEMOCRATIC  
PROCESS IN ISRAEL. THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD CLOSE AND  
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S GOVERN-  
MENT, AS WE HAVE HAD WITH HIS PREDECESSORS, AND WE FULLY  
EXPECT THAT THESE RELATIONS WILL EXIST WITH THE NEXT  
GOVERNMENT.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE SIMPLE PHYSICAL PROCESS OF CHANGE?  
WILL THAT IN ITSELF HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE PACE OF THE  
NEGOTIATIONS?

A. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS PROCESS TO AFFECT THE GENERAL  
PACE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. WILL A NEW PRIME MINISTER BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON ANY POSSIBLE INVITATIONS TO A NEW  
PRIME MINISTER.  
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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION THAT MOROCCO IS SENDING  
TROOPS TO ZAIRE AND THAT EGYPT IS SENDING TROOPS OR  
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE?

A. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS WILL BE GOING TO  
ZAIRE AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE.  
INSOFAR AS THE QUESTION OF EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE  
IS CONCERNED, THE QUESTION OF THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN  
ZAIRE DID COME UP DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT HERE  
IN WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO  
SEND A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO ZAIRE WHICH WOULD --

Q. WHAT PRESIDENT?

A. SADAT.

Q. SADAT SAID.

A. -- AND THAT THIS MISSION WOULD REPORT BACK TO HIM.  
WE HAVE NO OTHER REPORTS OF FURTHER EGYPTIAN PARTICIPA-  
TION.

I HAVE NOTHING BEYOND THE PRESS REPORTS ON THE QUESTION  
OF CHINESE PARTICIPATION OR ASSISTANCE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REPORTS OF ANY OTHER AFRICAN NATION  
SENDING ASSISTANCE?

A. NO, WE DO NOT.

Q. OF ANY OTHER NATION IN THE WORLD?

A. I HAVE NO OTHER REPORTS.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANYTHING -- DID THE  
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UNITED STATES ENCOURAGE MOROCCO OR EGYPT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS?

A. NO. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT PROPOSE SUCH ACTION AND THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT INFORMED BEFORE-HAND OF SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF MOROCCO.

Q. IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US A REQUEST FROM ZAIRE FOR MATERIEL, INCLUDING COMBAT ARMS, AND IN THE LIGHT OF OUR POSITION THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS, DOES THIS IN ANY WAY RELEASE THOSE ARMS OR HAS IT PROMPTED A DECISION FROM THAT STANDPOINT?

A. NO; NO DECISION HAS BEEN PROMPTED OR MADE ON THAT REQUEST.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE NOT ENCOURAGING SUCH ACTION, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE NOT OBJECTING TO IT?

A. WE ARE NOT TAKING A POSITION ON SUCH ACTION BY ONE AFRICAN STATE AT THIS POINT IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF ANOTHER AFRICAN STATE FOR ASSISTANCE IN AN INVASION OF ITS TERRITORY.

Q. HODDING, WHAT ABOUT A NON-AFRICAN STATE?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-AFRICANS IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA IS VERY WELL KNOWN. WE ARE OPPOSED TO SUCH PARTICIPATION.

Q. YOU EARLIER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE KNOWN A MESSAGE TO VARIOUS OTHER GOVERNMENTS SAYING THAT THE CONFLICT IN ZAIRE SHOULD NOT BE INTERNATIONALIZED. AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS THAT YOU ADDRESSED US TO IS THE SOVIET UNION. DID THAT MESSAGE DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN ZAIRE AND NON-AFRICAN PARTICIPATION?

A. WHAT WE HAVE SAID -- TO TRY TO GET TO YOUR QUESTION I WOULD HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF -- IS THAT THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS AND THAT, LOGICALLY, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD MEAN WE THINK THAT THE OAU SHOULD

BRING ITS ASSISTANCE TO BEAR. WE BELIEVE, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PARTICIPATION OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT -- WHICH IS NOT A PARTY TO THE DISPUTE -- IS VITAL AND USEFUL, AND WE ENCOURAGE THAT KIND OF PARTICIPATION IN WHAT IS GOING ON IN ZAIRE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE MOROCCAN TROOPS GOING TO ZAIRE MIGHT BE USING AMERICAN-SUPPLIED WEAPONS?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE AT THIS POINT ANY INFORMATION ON THAT QUESTION.

Q. WOULD THAT RAISE A LEGAL POINT IF AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE WERE USED IN ZAIRE?

A. BY BOTH LAW AND AGREEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO MUST OBTAIN PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEFORE DOING SO. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR SUCH PERMISSION AND NO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MOROCCANS ON THAT SUBJECT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL JUST HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT OR AID IS INVOLVED? THERE'S NO ONGOING MILITARY AID PROGRAM, IS THERE?

A. WELL, I CAN GIVE YOU A RUNDOWN OF WHAT WE HAVE IN THE WAY OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH MOROCCO IF YOU LIKE; O.K.?

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Q. YES.

A. WE'RE MAKING AVAILABLE 30 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS FINANCING THIS YEAR.

Q. THAT MEANS WHICH FISCAL YEAR, TO BE PRECISE?

A. THAT MEANS THIS '77 FISCAL YEAR. THAT IS, OF COURSE, REPAYABLE AT INTEREST AND IS TIED TO THE PURCHASE OF U.S. DEFENSE-RELATED EQUIPMENT.

WE ALSO HAVE A SMALL GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM RUNNING ABOUT DOLS 800,000 ANNUALLY, VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHICH IS SPENT IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE TRAINING OF MOROCCAN MILITARY PERSONNEL GOING FORWARD.

NOW, ON ECONOMIC AID, OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TOTALS VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR, DEPENDING ON SUCH THINGS AS PL 480 TITLE I FOOD PROGRAMS OR LARGE INPUTS FOR MULTI-

LATERAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE IRRIGATION SCHEMES FUNDED BY THE IBRD.

THIS YEAR OUR TOTAL, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF THE PEACE CORPS OPERATION IN MOROCCO, WILL BE ABOUT 24 MILLION DOLLARS. LAST YEAR IT WAS DOLS 46.9 MILLION.

Q. YOU SAY WE HAD NO ADVANCE WORD ON MOROCCANS GOING. THERE'S BEEN A REPORT OUT OF KINSHASA THAT THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TALKED TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THERE YESTERDAY. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

A. I'M SORRY. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT WHATSOEVER.

Q. THE ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MET WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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BILL SCHAUFLELE TODAY. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

A. I'LL TAKE THAT AND I'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

Q. HODDING, YOU HAVE SAID THAT OUR POLICY IS THAT WE FEEL THAT THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS. DO I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY THAT OUR POLICY IS THAT WE DON'T OBJECT TO MOROCCO SENDING TROOPS AT THE REQUEST OF ZAIRE? IS THAT CORRECT.

A. THE MOROCCAN DECISION TO SEND ASSISTANCE AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE CLEARLY UNDERSCORES THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. IT IS A SITUATION IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN USING OUR BEST EFFORTS TO BRING TO A CONCLUSION WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE THE INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND --

Q. DO WE OBJECT TO THE MOROCCANS SENDING TROOPS AT THE REQUEST OF ZAIRE?

A. THE DECISION OF THE MOROCCANS TO SEND TROOPS TO ZAIRE, AT THE REQUEST OF THAT GOVERNMENT, IS A DECISION FOR THE MOROCCANS TO TAKE, AND WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT QUESTION.

Q. COULD I FOLLOW THAT UP BY ASKING THIS: WOULD WE HAVE AN OBJECTION, SAY, IF THE SAUDI-ARABIANS SENT A DETACHMENT? I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DISTANCE, BUT MOROCCO IS A LONG WAY FROM ZAIRE, AND SO IS SAUDI ARABIA. I WAS JUST WONDERING: WOULD WE HAVE AN OBJECTION TO THE SAUDI ARABIANS GOING, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT AFRICANS?

A. THAT'S AN 'IFFEY' SITUATION, BUT THEY ARE MEMBERS ALSO OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION, AND IF THEY WERE REQUESTED AGAIN BY ZAIRE TO HELP THEM --  
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Q. SAME ORGANIZATION?

A. NO, THEY ARE NOT. KILL THAT.

IF THEY WERE REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE,  
THEN WE WOULD DEAL WITH THAT QUESTION WHEN IT AROSE. I  
HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. RIGHT. THEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE, IF THE KATANGANS  
ASKED THE CUBANS TO SEND MORE THAN WHAT SOME OF US THINK  
ARE ALREADY THERE, WHAT WOULD BE THE DIFFERENCE?

A. THE CUBANS ARE, IN THIS CASE, A TOTALLY EXTERNAL FORCE  
IN AFRICA, AND WE WOULD, AS WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED OUR  
OPPOSITION TO SUCH INTERVENTION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY HARD EVIDENCE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN  
ZAIRE?

A. NO; NO, WE DO NOT.

Q. WHY DO WE CONSIDER THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF  
ZAIRE TO BE IMPORTANT?

A. WE CONSIDER IT, BOTH UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE  
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EVERY NATION IS IMPORTANT AND  
PROTECTED.

Q. BEFORE CHANGING THE SUBJECT, COULD I JUST ASK WHETHER  
THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION WHICH YOU MENTIONED IN  
ZAIRE IS BECOMING MORE SERIOUS. DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW  
DETAILS ON HOW SERIOUS IT IS? WHAT KIND OF FIGHTING IS  
GOING ON? WHAT KIND OF TROOP MOVEMENT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION AGAIN. JUST  
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GENERALLY SPEAKING, AT THIS MOMENT, IT SEEMS TO HAVE  
BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO THE RABIN RESIGNATION, PLEASE, FOR  
A MOMENT?

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THE POSITIONS OUTLINED BY MR. RABIN,  
WHEN HE WAS HERE, AS BINDING ON THE NEXT ISRAELI  
GOVERNMENT?

A. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR WHAT THE NEXT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT  
WILL DO OR WHAT THIS ONE WILL DO. THEIR POSITIONS ARE  
THEIR OWN.

Q. BUT HE CAME HERE WITH THE PURPOSE OF OUTLINING THE ISRAELI POSITIONS IN THE PEACE PROCESS. NOW, THERE IS GOING TO BE A NEW GOVERNMENT. WOULD THAT MEAN THAT THESE POSITIONS MIGHT CHANGE? DOESN'T THIS MAKE THE RABIN VISIT DEFUNCT, IN A WAY?

A. THAT IS PURE SPECULATION, AND THERE IS NO POINT IN MY GETTING INTO IT. THE NEXT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

Q. WHAT ABOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON, DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AND THE AMERICAN ROLE IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF A WIDER CONFLICT?

A. WELL, THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON REMAINS THE SAME, BOTH IN RELATION TO WHAT OUR ROLE IS THERE AND TO THE FIGHTING, WHICH IS BY ALL REPORTS, VIGOROUS. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT, TO THE NEED FOR STABILITY IN THAT NATION, TO THE INTEGRITY OF THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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NATION. DID YOU WANT TO GO FURTHER THAN THAT?

Q. WELL, I WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING AS VIGOROUS -- WHAT, IN FACT, IS YOUR INFORMATION ON THE SYRIAN ROLE IN THE FIGHTING?

A. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIGHTING.

- -

Q. WELL, IS IT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT SYRIA IS -- HOW SHALL I PUT IT? IS SYRIA PARTICIPATING IN THE FIGHTING ITSELF, WITH ITS OWN TROOPS?

A. DEFINITELY ON THAT QUESTION, I CAN SAY WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SUCH A REPORT.

Q. THE SA'IGARNEDOS SAID YESTERDAY THAT SA'IGA, WHICH IS BACKED BY SYRIA, WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE FIGHTING.

A. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT, BUT I KNOW NOTHING MORE

THAN THAT REPORT. AND I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT INsofar AS OUR INFORMATION WAS CONCERNED, AS OPPOSED TO THAT REPORT, WE HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER ON SYRIAN TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE FIGHTING.

Q. WOULD THAT SUGGEST, AS WELL, THAT SYRIAN ARTILLERY IS NOT BEING USED? THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ISRAELI ARTILLERY IS FIRING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE INTO LEBANON.



A. WE HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCHANGE OF REMARKS WITH THE PRESS BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY VANCE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, APRIL 8:

Q. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR MEETING?

A. WELL, I HAD A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. THIS MEETING WAS ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL. IT WAS NOT SET FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT NATURALLY THE SUBJECT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS DID COME UP AND I HAVE RELATED TO THE SECRETARY THE ESSENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT WHEN HE RETURNED THE MANDATE TO HIS PARTY, AND EMPHASIZED TO THE SECRETARY WHAT I AM QUITE PREPARED TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT IN SPITE OF THIS DISTURBANCE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IN ISRAEL, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK AND GUIDED BY THE BASIC LAWS AND THE PLATFORM AND THE DECISIONS THAT WERE TAKEN BY THE KNESSET WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ENJOYED A MAJORITY IN THE KNESSET. AND ALL ARMS AND BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN AN EFFECTIVE WAY AND THIS IS IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD BE KNOWN BOTH BY FRIENDS AND POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES. AND THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE RELATED TO THE SECRETARY.

THE MAJORITY OF THE CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED TO THE SECRETARY KINDLY FILLING ME IN ON HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY ON ITS MIDDLE EASTERN ASPECT, AS WELL AS THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT IN WASHINGTON. AND OF COURSE THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CONVEYED TO MY GOVERNMENT FOR STUDY.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, ON THE FIRST POINT, WILL THE CHANGE IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE SO. WE WERE GOING TO GO THROUGH AN ELECTORAL DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ANYHOW IN A FEW WEEKS, AND A UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSTITUTED ANYHOW. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD AFFECT THE GREAT NATIONAL CONSENSUS WHICH EXISTS IN ISRAEL, AND THIS IS TO CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. DID THE ACCOUNT MR. VANCE GAVE YOU OF HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW ON THE MIDDLE EAST GIVE YOU ANY INDICATION OF A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION OR ANY POSSIBLE VARIATION? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. NO. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, OF COURSE, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY INDICATE TO YOU THAT THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE SENDING MATERIAL HELP TO ZAIRE IN THE FORM OF TROOPS OR ARMS?

A. WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT, I CANNOT GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATION, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT ON THE POSITION OF EGYPT AND AFRICA, SADAT HAS HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS HIS POSITION PUBLICLY.

Q. DID YOU ASK WHETHER THE EGYPTIANS COULD EXPECT ANY KIND OF MILITARY AID FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WHAT WAS YOUR (SIC) ANSWER?

A. THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY AID TO EGYPT DID COME UP. AND THE SECRETARY REITERATED WHAT WAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT THERE WERE NO DECISIONS AND NO COMMITMENTS MADE ON THIS ISSUE.

Q. DID ZAIRE COME UP IN ANY FORM TODAY? DID YOU DISCUSS WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE?  
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A. WE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, YES.

Q. WHAT DID -- WAS YOUR COUNTRY ASKED TO TAKE ANY INTEREST OR WHAT WAS THE AMERICAN POSITION ON WHAT YOUR COUNTRY--

A. NO, IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS EITHER BETWEEN US AND THE UNITED STATES OR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AFRICA, BUT RATHER AS TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ASSESSING DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THE WORLD AND, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, DID THE SECRETARY IN HIS DISCUSSION OF MR. SADAT'S VISIT LEAVE YOU WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VISIT WAS HELPFUL TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE OR NOT?

A. WELL, SINCE I DID NOT ASK THIS QUESTION SPECIFICALLY, BERNIE, I DID NOT GET A SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THIS. BUT I

THINK THAT THE WHOLE PROCESS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TAKING NOW IN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES BOTH WITH ISRAEL AND ARAB LEADERS IS WITH A VIEW IN MIND TO ADVANCE THE PROCESS OF PEACE. I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO SIZE AT THIS STAGE WHAT THE OVERALL CONCLUSION WILL BE BY THE TIME ALL THE VISITS WILL BE CONCLUDED. OUR ASSESSMENT OF COURSE OF THE VISIT OF SADAT IS ONE WHICH IS DONE BY US AND I AM NOT COMMITTING THE SECRETARY TO IT. BUT AS I SAID THE SECRETARY INDICATED IN THE COURSE OF THIS CONVERSATION THAT AS FAR AS THE AMERICAN POSITION IS CONCERNED, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY CHANGE IN ITS BASIC PREMISES AND POSTULATES WITH REGARD TO THE COMPONENTS AND INGREDIENTS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. DID YOU FIND ANY CHANGE IN THE DEFINITION OF ISRAELI BOUNDARIES RESULTING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT  
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ABOUT THE QUESTION OF LEGAL BOUNDARIES AND DEFENSIBLE BOUNDARIES AND ALL THAT?

A. A CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN POSITION?

Q. YES.

A. NO, I HAVE NOT FOUND ANY CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN POSITION. I THINK THE AMERICAN POSITION STANDS AS IT WAS BEFORE THE VISIT.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENTS ABOUT EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL?

A. MY OWN REACTION TO IT?

Q. YES.

A. WELL, I CAN ONLY QUOTE WHAT HE SAID PUBLICLY WHEN HE WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE MEANS BY NORMALIZATION. HE HAS REITERATED THAT FOR HIM. NORMALIZATION IS ENDING THE STATE OF BELIGERENCY. AND WHEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, JERUSALEM AND SO ON, HE SAID NO. THESE ARE THINGS THAT MIGHT BE DEVELOPED IN THE FUTURE. BUT HE DOES NOT SEE THIS PART AND PARCEL OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT. AND FOR ME THAT IS A REITERATION OF HIS ORIGINAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE ESSENCE OF PEACE.

Q. WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE NEW HEAD OF THE LABOR PARTY COMING TO WASHINGTON TO MEET THE PRESIDENT?

A. BETWEEN ME AND THE SECRETARY?

Q. YES.  
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A. NO. IT SEEMS THERE IS NO NEW HEAD YET. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT THERE WILL BE.

A. WELL, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION.

Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER QUESTION YOU SAID THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON A DESIRE TO GET A SETTLEMENT. BUT DOES IT NOT STAND TO REASON THAT WITH NEW LEADERSHIP IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO GET YOUR POSITION IN ORDER BEFORE A NEGOTIATION COULD BEGIN?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE IS A QUESTION HERE OF GETTING OUR SITUATION IN ORDER. I THINK THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN READY FOR THE PEACE PROCESS FOR TWENTY-NINE YEARS, AND WE NEVER WERE IN THE PAST AND WILL NOT BE IN THE FUTURE THE PARTY THAT WILL DELAY THIS COVETED GOAL IN ONE DAY, REGARDLESS OF WHO WILL EMERGE AS A RESULT OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN ISRAEL AS THE LEADER OF THE PARTY OR THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL.

Q. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 8 1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE      FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR      APRIL 8, 1977:  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, PGOV, US, IS, MO, EG, CG  
**To:** ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS      BEIRUT      MULTIPLE  
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